

Huffman

Statement of Miss Millie Opie, taken January 23, 1923, at her home,  
Carman Street, New Brunswick.

by Julia Harpman.

On the afternoon of September 14, 1922 about 3 o'clock, as near as I can remember, Mr. Hall called on my telephone and said "Can you get Mrs. Mills to the phone?" I called out of the window but Mrs. Mills did not answer - she was asleep - so I told Mr. Hall that she did not answer and he said "Very well, I will call later" Whenever he phoned he would "I will call later". He never left a message unless he just wanted Mr. Mills to go up to the church or to do some errand. In that event, he would ask for "either Mr. or Mrs. Mills" and then if I could not reach them, he would say "please tell Mr. Mills to come up to the church".

That night, I was going to a shower and I had on a new white dress. Just as I got to the corner of George and Carman Streets where I was going to get the 7.30 car, I met Mrs. Mills, coming from the church. She did not have a hat or her scarf, so she must have gone back home before she went out to the Phillips Farm. She said she had been up to the church to put some clippings on Mr. Hall's desk; that it was the custom of the parishioners if they saw anything that they thought might be of interest to the minister to cut it out of the papers and place the clippings on his desk. Then, if he thought the matter of sufficient interest, he would mention it to the congregation.

Mrs. Mills remarked about my dress and I told her she looked nice in her dress - I had seen her making it, it was that blue voile, with the embroidered dot and piping of red ribbon. She said that was the second time she had worn it, because she was afraid it was too gay. She always dressed quietly and never used powder or rouge but if she had anything with a little color on it, she would say "Jim thinks its too gay". I often told her not to get old before her time.

It was while we stood there on the corner that I told her about Mr. Hall's message in the afternoon. She said "Did he say it was urgent?" and I said, "No, he said he would call again. But if you want to telephone, just go use my phone. My sister is there and will let you in the house and you go on upstairs and use the phone". But she didn't go to my house, for my sister was there all evening and she said Mrs. Mills did not come. She must have gone to Blitz's store to telephone, though they won't admit it. They are ignorant they might think their phone would be taken out if they got mixed up in this investigation. I'm certain that Mrs. Mills had been telephoning from their store for four or five weeks before she was killed, because I had noticed that she did not use my phone, as she used to.

She used to come to my house to telephone the minister about every little thing. I told her once "Tell your troubles to a policeman, don't hang all your troubles on your minister's nose. If he listened to all the troubles of everybody in his parish, he'd go crazy" but she said "When I am in trouble, I want my priest" One night, shortly after her operation, she came to my house after 12 o'clock to 'phone Mr. Hall. Charlotte had not come home and Mrs. Mills was terribly worried. She 'phoned the minister and he said, "I'll be right down" and down he came. Mr. Mills said his wife had wanted him to come over to 'phone